

# Gasconade County SWCD

January 2010

Volume 20, Issue 3

The Gasconade County SWCD is proud to sponsor a

## Farm and Conservation Fair

**Free Lunch  
11:30 - 12:30**

**Free Admission**

**HERMANN HIGH SCHOOL**

**HWY 100 WEST**

**MARCH 20, 2010**

**9 A.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**Door Prizes**

**Grand Door Prize-**

**Oregon Scientific Weather Station**

*45 Minute Workshops* will be held at  
9:30, 10:30 and 12:15

- ♦ Proper Soil Testing and Analysis
- ♦ Nutrient & Pest Management
- ♦ Pond Management
- ♦ FSA Programs
- ♦ Timber Stand Improvement
- ♦ NRCS Farm Bill Programs
- ♦ Prescribed Burn Workshop

### *Children's Site*

- ♦ Hands on Activities
- ♦ Worm tunnel
- ♦ Enviroscape Demonstrations
- ♦ Laser Shot

### ***VENDORS***

- ♦ Services
- ♦ Products
- ♦ Equipment

**Free Informational  
Materials**

This fair is made possible by the 1/10 of 1% Parks and Soils Tax

# COST-SHARE MONEY STILL AVAILABLE!

District Staff have been working diligently to process the applications that were received through the sign-up process at the beginning of the fiscal year. As of this printing, we have assisted everyone and allocated money to everyone that qualified and/or is ready to proceed. We currently have 54% of our allocation obligated.

Since our money is divided into specific resource concerns, it is locked up in those concerns. We still have money in the following concerns.

- ◆ Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion - Seedings, critical areas, structures...(\$61,490.50 unobligated)
- ◆ Woodland - Woodland fencing, Timber Harvest Management Plans, Log Road repair....(\$7,205.40)
- ◆ Grazing Management - Grazing Systems, Lime, Seed.....(\$6,688.47)
- ◆ Streambank Erosion - Stabilization with RipRap (\$2,500 remains, with \$5,000 possible)
- ◆ Ground Water Protection - Well Decommissioning, Spring Development, Sinkhole Treatment...(\$1,085.00)

If you feel that you could use some financial and/or technical assistance with any of these resource concerns, please give us a call at 573-437-3478 ext 3 and our technician, Terry DuBois, will be happy to meet with you and start the planning process.

## ***FSA NEWS***

### **SURE SIGNUP BEGAN JANUARY 4, 2010**

The SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments) program will provide assistance to producers who suffered a crop loss due to natural disasters during the 2008 crop year. To be eligible for SURE assistance, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on one crop of economic significance. In addition, producers must have met the risk management purchase requirement by obtaining either Federal Crop Insurance or a NAP policy for all crops of economic significance. Producers who are considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance.

For more information on SURE, producers should visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Appointments to file an application or determine eligibility can be made by calling the Gasconade County FSA Office at 573-437-4131 Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).

### **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM**

Livestock producers are reminded that applications are being accepted for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather conditions such as flood, blizzards, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Applications must be filed within 30 days after death is apparent. Applications may be filed in person at the Gasconade Farm Service Agency Office or by calling the office at 573-437-4131 ext. 2.

### **DCP (DIRECT AND COUNTERCYCLICAL PAYMENT) SIGNUP**

Farm Service Agency is accepting signup for the DCP program. Advance payments (22% of the annual payment) are available in the month of a producer's choice. Producers are urged to call 573-437-4131 to make an appointment. If you have changes to report (i.e. trust establishment, farming operation, banking information, etc.) please alert the county office staff when making your appointment.

### **COC ELECTION RESULTS**

Ballots for the County Committee election in LAA #3 were counted December 7, 2009, at the county office. Incumbent, Neil Kramme, was re-elected to serve his second three-year term.

### **PLEASE – CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!!**

Due to current short staffing, Gasconade County FSA is urging all producers to call for an appointment to take care of program business. This will help us to serve you better and shorten your wait in the office. Our regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The office number is 573-437-4131 and our fax number is 573-437-4771.

# State Award Winners!

The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that we had three state award winners at the 65th Annual Training Conference at Tan-Tar-A on December 1, 2009. Erin Gerlemann, was announced as the 2009 State Poster Contest Winner for the 7th - 9th Grade Division. James & Doratheia Koepke were announced as the 2009 State Grassland Farmers of the Year.

Erin Gerlemann is currently a student at the St. George School in Hermann, MO. She participated in the Gasconade County SWCD 2009 poster contest, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" in March of this past year as a 7th Grader. She was selected as the winning poster for the 7th - 9th Grade Division and then her poster was forwarded to the state level competition where she competed with the other 7th through 9th Grade classes from 114 counties. Erin was presented with a certificate and a cash award. Her poster has been forwarded on to the National Competition, which will be held in late January. Erin's parents are Ronnie and Sherri Gerlemann. Good luck to Erin at the next level.

James & Doratheia Koepke own a farm on Hog Trough Road. They have been farming for well over 21 years and have been improving their land with conservation practices throughout the years. They are very active in the community and have taken an active role in spreading the information about various practices that are available for conservation and land management. They have hosted numerous field events on their property. The Koepke's were first awarded the Area 5 Grassland Farmer and then they were submitted to the State Level Competition. The Koepke's were presented with a plaque and cash award in recognition of their fine achievements.

Dennis Berger, Terry Dubois, and Diana Mayfield all attended the conference this year. They obtained some valuable information.



Erin (far right) and her family enjoy the evening at Tan-Tar-A



James & Doratheia pose with their State Award



Seedling order forms are available at the USDA Service Center.

Last day to order is April 15, 2010.

# Practice Highlight

Since we have several new practices, I thought we would take some space to explain one or two in the hopes that we might assist you with the implementation of the practice.

**WELL DECOMMISSIONING:** This program pays a \$400 incentive payment for each and every well that is closed. The only limit would be the Gasconade County Maximum of \$6,000 per landowner per year. This practice does not cover cisterns, however. (Rule of thumb is, if it has drain lines coming into the liner, it is a cistern.) To complete this practice, a plan will need to be drawn up by the District Staff. You will receive complete step by step instructions on how to complete the processes and what paperwork needs to be completed. Please note that there is no cost-share for the actual components and labor. You will receive 100% of the incentive payment.

Why do you need to close an old well? A well is a direct line to the underground water table. Everything that falls into the well poses a threat of contamination to the water, whether it is vermin, debris, fertilizer, pesticides, contaminated water, or other foreign substances. Not to mention that an open well poses a safety hazard for animals as well as children.

If you have a well and would like to close it, give us a call today!

The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District does not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter, furthermore, any contractor/vendor that wishes to be added to the district's contractor/vendor list can be added upon request.



# Deadline for 2010 Conservation Financial Assistance Looms

COLUMBIA, MO – Missouri agricultural producers and land-owners interested in protecting or improving natural resources on their land are being urged to contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office before January 29 if they want to qualify for conservation financial assistance in 2010.

"We realize the holiday season is a busy time for everyone, but for those producers who need technical or financial assistance in the coming year, now's the time to move conservation from their 'wish list' to their 'to-do list'," State Conservationist J.R. Flores said.

NRCS administers a suite of conservation programs designed to address various natural resource issues on private and Tribal working land and private, non-industrial forest land. While producers can apply anytime for the programs, NRCS has set January 29 as the cut-off date to evaluate and rank applications for funding for four programs:

- Environmental Qual-

ity Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

*(Information about applying for assistance through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) will be announced later.)*

In addition to its regular conservation programs, special funding pools are available for organic producers, producers affected by wildfires, and producers who will be converting expired Conservation Reserve Program land back into production.

"Whether farmers are interested in improving irrigation efficiency, improving wildlife habitat, protecting water quality or reducing erosion, we have a program that can provide both technical and finan-

cial assistance for qualifying applicants," Flores said.

Last year in Missouri, the NRCS provided more than \$116 million in financial assistance to its customers for the implementation of conservation practices and activities through its Farm Bill programs.

"Those practices produce numerous on-site and off-site benefits, including improved water quality, air quality, soil quality, wildlife habitat, and irrigation efficiency," Flores said.

Interested agricultural producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center office or check the agency's web site at [www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.

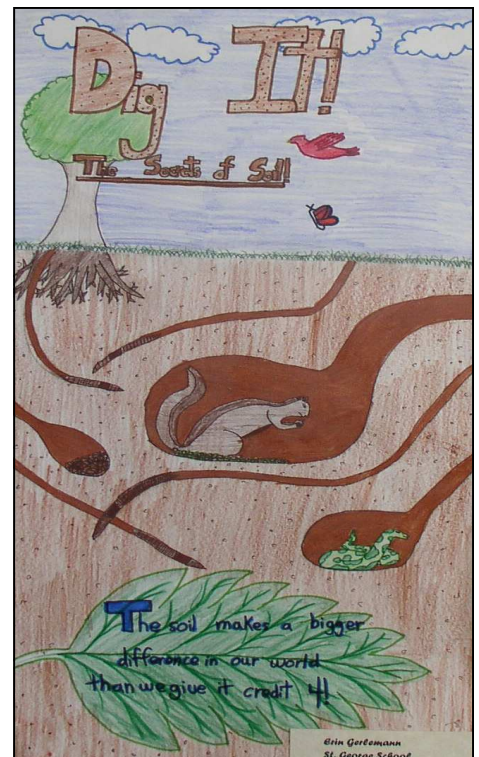
"By applying before the deadline, producers can harvest numerous conservation benefits, as well as financial assistance, throughout 2010," Flores said.

## Congratulations

**Terry DuBois has successfully completed the baseline technician test.**



**He is now, officially, a District Technician II.**



2009 7th-9th Grade State Poster Winner  
By Erin Gerlemann

# IT'S THE LAW

At the recent Gasconade County SWCD Contractor's Meeting MO-One Call Representative, Bill Dexheimer, updated us on several changes to the law in regards to "calling before you dig." It is the Law!

- ♦ **WHO MUST CALL** - The **CONTRACTOR** doing the work must call. The landowner can not be held responsible if they are not doing the actual work.
- ♦ **WHEN YOU MUST CALL** - At least 2 working days before you begin the project. You must call on any "earth disturbing project." That includes trenching, fencing, pond building, even driving a stake into the ground.
- ♦ **INFORMATION YOU MUST GIVE** - It is recommended that you give the nearest state road or highway and the North West point (Longitude and Latitude if possible) and then the footage east and south so that they can draw a polygon to encompass the area in question. For a pond, they would like a center point and a circumference. You should **white flag or white paint** the area in question along with your company initials.
- ♦ **INFORMATION YOU MUST OBTAIN** - When you call, you need to write down the work ticket number (SWCDs need this number for cost-share projects) and the name of any utility that is listed in the area. If there are no utilities reported, you are free to proceed. You will get a work ticket number regardless of utilities or not.
- ♦ **ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UTILITIES** - The utilities must respond within 24 hours after midnight of the day that you called. (If you call at 2 p.m. on Monday, the utilities must respond by midnight on Wednesday.) You should check the site for their markers. You should check off every utility that responds, if you do not hear from a specific utility you should call MO-One call with a "NO RESPONSE". The utility will then have 2 hours in which to contact you and/or mark their area.

There were 6 contractors at this meeting on January 12th. The meeting was very informative and there was a great deal of productive discussion. Those contractors that attended were: Kenny Balkenbusch, Buddy Schneider, Harlen Limberg, Richard Leiweke, Jared Cunningham (Jarvis Excavating), and Wayne Schneider.

## FAIR WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### An Introduction to Pond Management -

Scott Williams is a Fisheries Management Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Scott will share an introductory pond workshop briefly describing pond construction, fish stocking, fish management, pond plant management, and common pond problems.

Timber Stand Improvement - Aaron Holsapple is the Resource Forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation for Gasconade, Maries, and Osage counties. Aaron will discuss basic timber management including the following: How can I tell if I have any potential for growing quality timber? Timber Stand Improvement-what can a landowner do now to improve the quality of their forests for future timber production. (Believe it or not you probably need to remove some trees first!) By giving your best trees more room to grow, they will grow faster and earn a higher income. How big should my trees be before I sell them? Questions pertaining to forest management in the Central

Ozarks will be addressed.

### Nutrient & Pest Management -

Melinda Barch, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, will be discussing the current programs that are available in addressing your nutrient and pest management issues. She will be explaining the importance of monitoring the levels that are placed on the ground in order to protect our water quality and eventually saving you money.

Benefits of Prescribed Burning - Kyle Lairmore, Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands Conservationist, will give a presentation on Prescribed Burning. He will cover the benefits of using fire as a management tool for wildlife habitat improvements and maintenance.

Proper Soil Testing & Analysis - Andy Read, Horticulturalist from the University of Missouri Extension, will be conducting this workshop. Soil sampling is

the key to a sound soil testing programs and it is the one step that producers have complete control of. Liming and fertilizing without a soil test is a lot like building a home without a blueprint. Soil testing is the only way to determine the available nutrient status of a field and receive specific fertilizer recommendations.

NRCS Farm Bill Programs - Melinda Barch, NRCS District Conservationist, will be discussing the new Farm Bill Programs and how they can assist landowners financially. She will review the Environmental quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

FSA Programs - FSA Staff will be presenting a workshop on their new programs, such as the Livestock Indemnity Program and others. They will also have a presentation on their farm loan programs.

# *Forage and Beef Conference*

**Monday, February 22, 2010**

**Cuba, Missouri  
Knights of Columbus  
I-44 East – Hwy. UU Exit**

- 1:00 Registration
- 1:30 Brent Carpenter – Missouri Farms Research Associate  
“Agriculture Economic Outlook for 2010”
- 2:15 BREAK
- 2:45 Dr. Monty S. Kerley – University of Missouri - Animal Science  
“Residual Feed Intake - What We have Learned About  
Feed Efficiency In Beef Cattle”
- 3:30 Producer Panel – What works for you?  
Ben Davis  
Joy & Cindy Haeffner
- 4:45 BREAK
- 5:15 Dr. Justin Sexten – State Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist  
“Practical Nutritional and Management Options for Beef Cattle”
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Dr. Justin Sexten – continued
- 8:00 Adjourn



**RSVP by February 5, 2010** to the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District at 1-800-364-8732, ext. 3, or 573-364-6202, ext. 3.

**\*\*There is a \$10.00 per person charge for the conference – payable at the door.\*\***

Sponsored by: Soil & Water Conservation Districts, University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Crawford, Phelps, Dent, Maries, and Gasconade Counties, Maries County Bank and Branches, Crawford County Cattlemen's Association, Crawford County Farm Bureau, Dent County Farm Bureau, Gasconade County Farm Bureau, MFA Incorporated, Bank of Salem, Town and Country Bank in Rolla, St. James, Salem and Bourbon, Peoples Bank in Cuba, Steelville, Sullivan and Bourbon, First Community National Bank in Cuba, Steelville, Sullivan, Rolla, Vienna and Eureka, Bank of Sullivan's–Cuba Banking Center, Rosebud Tractor and Equipment Co., Inc., and Monty's Plant Food Company.

USDA Programs and Assistance are available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, marital status or national origin.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**



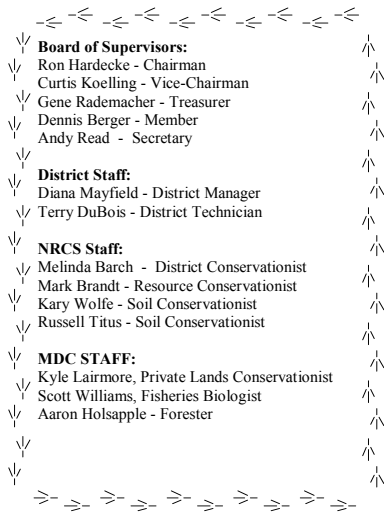
## Gasconade County SWCD

314 Olive Street

Owensville, MO 65066

(573) 437-3478 ext. 3 FAX: (573) 437-4771

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### Board of Supervisors:

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Curtis Koelling - Vice-Chairman  
Gene Rademacher - Treasurer  
Dennis Berger - Member  
Andy Read - Secretary

### District Staff:

Diana Mayfield - District Manager  
Terry DuBois - District Technician

### NRCS Staff:

Melinda Barch - District Conservationist  
Mark Brandt - Resource Conservationist  
Kary Wolfe - Soil Conservationist  
Russell Titus - Soil Conservationist

### MDC STAFF:

Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands Conservationist  
Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist  
Aaron Holsapple - Forester

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-7328 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TTD).

# Dates to Remember

- January 18, 2010** Dr. Martin Luther Kind Day - Office Closed
- February 1, 2010** Board of Supervisor Meeting - USDA Service Center 7 p.m.
- February 15, 2010** President's Day - Office Closed
- February 25, 2010** Posters Due for This year's contest
- March 1, 2010** Board of supervisor Meeting - USDA Service Center 7 p.m.
- March 8, 2010** Poster Judging, 8 a.m.
- March 14, 2010** Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 20, 2010** Farm & Conservation Fair, Hermann HS 9 am - 1:15 pm

## Upcoming Grazing Schools

- ♦ April 15-16, Phelps County
- ♦ May 13-14, Osage County
- ♦ June 17-18, Wurdack Advanced School
- ♦ September 9-10, Maries River School
- ♦ September 30-October 1, Wurdack School

**CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS. They will all meet the DSP-3 requirements!**

## Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

**LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.**

**Drill charge: Minimum charge of \$90.00 for less than 10 acres usage. An additional \$9.00 will be charged for each additional acre under 50 acres. There will be an \$8.00 per acre charge for 50 acres or more.**

For Scheduling of equipment, please call the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3, unless other wise indicated.

- ♦ John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is located at Raineri Transmission, 803 S. 6th Street (Hwy EE) Owensville. Call 573-437-8470.
- ♦ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office.

### Located at the SWCD Office:

- ♦ Rotowiper - \$25 a day
- ♦ Burn Equipment - \$50 deposit, \$10 use charge
- ♦ ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer, Disk) - \$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece or \$50 for all three
- ♦ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge—Donated by Quail Unlimited
- ♦ Soil Probe - no charge